

## NASA GCMD Keywords Version 8.4 Released

The NASA GCMD staff is pleased to announce the release of version 8.4 of the GCMD keywords. Overall 173 new keywords were added and 24 keywords were modified. The keywords are used to facilitate the classification and discovery of Earth Science data by providing a rich vocabulary for characterizing the data. The GCMD keywords are used by hundreds of data providers worldwide for categorizing the ~32k records stored in the Common Metadata Repository {insert link}.

Additions and updates to the keywords are based on recommendations from the Earth Science community, requests from data providers and GCMD science coordinators. These changes are grouped into releases (generally by keyword type and by science discipline). The releases are then reviewed by subject matter experts and approved by the ESDIS Standards Office (<https://earthdata.nasa.gov/eso>) according to the forthcoming Keyword Governance Document {insert link}.

Version 8.4 (which includes the previously unreleased keyword versions 8.2 and 8.3) consists of changes to the Science and Location keywords. The keyword changes are summarized in the attached table.

### Next Steps

#### 1. Discontinue Use of the Deprecated Keywords

Providers should discontinue use of the deprecated keywords when creating or updating records. In MMT and docBuilder the deprecated keywords will no longer be accepted as valid. However, at present, it will not prevent the record with deprecated keywords from being ingested into the CMR.

#### 2. Replace the Deprecated Keywords

Providers should update existing records which contain one or more of the deprecated keywords. For example replace all instances of the Location keyword **Brunei** to **Brunei Darussalam**.

The sciOps staff will contact each provider, supply a list of affected records and discuss options for applying the updates. The options are: the provider makes the updates; sciOps makes the updates; or sciOps makes the updates and forwards the records for provider review.

#### 3. Apply the new Keywords

Providers should begin to apply the new keywords to new and updated records as appropriate.

### Contact Us

Please see keywords page {link} for general information about keywords. See {link} for information on how to access the keywords using the RESTful service (API).

Questions and comments about keywords can be posted online on the new Keyword Community Forum at <https://wiki.earthdata.nasa.gov/x/d4A9B>. The GCMD User Support staff can be reached at [gsfc-gcmduso@mail.nasa.gov](mailto:gsfc-gcmduso@mail.nasa.gov).